



# Director's REPORT

to the  
Management  
Advisory  
Board

Lou Hammond Ketilson, Director  
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

June 2012





The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institution located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Contract partners in the co-operative sector include Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Concentra Financial, and The Co-operators.

The centre is also supported by the University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units — the School of Public Policy, the Edwards School of Business, and Sociology, among others — as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

We acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing support of all our sponsoring organizations.



# Overview and Highlights



More Awards for Sponsors



International Year of Co-operatives



Building Community Exhibit



Impact of Co-operatives Research Update



Other Research Update



Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings



Seminars



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



Partners and Developments



# Overview and Highlights

## ▲ More Awards for Sponsors

The Co-operators was recognized in 2012 once again as one of Canada's top thirty green employers. And SaskCentral was named "Canada's Best Workplace" for 2012 by the Great Place to Work Institute Canada. We are proud and indeed fortunate to be associated with organizations of such integrity.

## ▲ International Year of Co-operatives

Work continues apace for the international conference "Co-operating to Build a Better West," which will take place in Saskatoon 1–3 November at the Hotel Radisson. Organizing partners include the Centre, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, and le Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan. The co-ordinating committee is made up of many local co-operatives and credit unions, including Centre sponsors. Keynote speakers include award-winning essayist, novelist, and visionary thinker John Ralston Saul, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation, Mark Surman, and the Corporate Secretary of Arctic Co-operatives Limited, Mary Nirlungayuk. Other events include Co-op Fest, a combined music festival and trade show that will celebrate local co-operative businesses and musicians; tours of the Building Community exhibit, portions of which will be on display at local co-ops and credit unions; and the Co-op Merit Awards.

**Visit [www.buildabetterwest.com](http://www.buildabetterwest.com) for details about the program and further information.**

## ▲ Building Community Exhibit

The reconfiguration of our large-format exhibit, Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being, is a major part of the Centre's contribution to celebrations for the International Year of Co-operatives. Maria Basualdo, also a Centre PhD student, is co-ordinating the project. The smaller regional components have already been launched in Northern Ontario and Manitoba, and the full exhibit was on display in Melfort during Co-op Week last October. Swift Current is confirmed for November 2012 and we are working with The Co-operators for a suitable date in Guelph in 2013. The full version of the exhibit will be on display during the Joint Congress of the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil de la coopération canadien et mutualité in Montreal, 26–29 June 2012.

Intern Carolyn Camman has produced a report on the Melfort exhibit, which was the pilot project. Titled "The Melfort Exhibit: Lessons Learned," the report has important contributions to make to the guidebook the Centre is developing to accompany the exhibit. It also documents the history of the exhibit, its goals, and feedback from reviewers.

The guidebook for communities interested in hosting the exhibit is complete and currently in editing. It contains, among other things, a searchable database, a complete French translation of all the panels, training for tour guides, curricular connections for teachers, and content for workshops to accompany the exhibit.

See Maria's report, below in the student section, for more details.

### ▲ Impact of Co-operatives Research Update

Research continues on Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada, spear-headed by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA). The Centre is involved in two projects under this umbrella. Lou Hammond Ketilson and Jessica Gordon Nembhard are partnered with Advantage and Affinity credit unions to study "The Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership." Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan will be incorporating four of Lou and Jessica's survey questions into its provincial survey, which will be administered in June, as well as several of Lou and Jessica's other questions into the Affinity-specific portion of the survey. The results will be shared with all credit unions in Saskatchewan in the full report from the survey company. Jessica, Lou, and Linda Moulin, senior VP of governance at Affinity, will be presenting on their work to the Joint Research and Education conference in Montreal at the end of June. The other project, undertaken by former Centre postdoc Catherine Leviten-Reid and Karla Skoutajan of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, is examining "The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital." This is a five-year, \$1 million SSHRC-funded project involving CCA, the Centre, Saint Mary's University, the University of Victoria, and Mount Saint Vincent University, plus more than a dozen co-operative associations and credit unions.

### ▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Lou and Michael's project with Affinity Credit Union to examine the provision of financial services to immigrant communities — complete
- ▲ New research: Perception of Co-ops Survey — Lou and Michael are working with the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the College of Arts and Science to conduct a province-wide telephone survey of the public's knowledge and attitudes towards Saskatchewan co-operatives and co-operative development
- ▲ New research: Michael's work with Erin Hancock (CCA) and Debbie Dergousoff (Simon Fraser University) titled "A Study of Innovative Co-operative Projects 2009–2011"
- ▲ Murray Fulton and Michael Atkinson's (School of Public Policy) examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives — ongoing
- ▲ Murray's work on the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part

- of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing
  - ▲ Michael Gertler’s work with a variety of partners on “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan” — ongoing
  - ▲ Michael Gertler’s “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities” — ongoing
  - ▲ Catherine Leviten-Reid’s “Multistakeholder Governance in the Social Economy: Towards a New Framework for Research” — ongoing
  - ▲ Catherine’s research on health services in Duck Lake in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region and CUISR — ongoing
- ▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings
- ▲ “Policy and Research in Community Investment,” 2nd National Rural Research Workshop, hosted by the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Ottawa, 24 May 2012; Lou attended and presented the keynote address
  - ▲ Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting, Calgary, 8 June 2012; Murray and graduate student Nicoleta Uzea attended and presented
  - ▲ “Co-operative Values in Internationalized Operations,” sponsored by the e-Research Network for Agricultural Co-operatives, Helsinki, Finland, 14–16 June 2012; Murray attended and presented
  - ▲ 9th Institut national de la recherche agronomique / Institut d’économie industrielle (INRA/IDEI) Conference on Industrial Organization and the Food Processing Industry, Toulouse, France, 21–22 June 2012; Murray attended and presented
  - ▲ “Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives,” the Joint Co-operative Research and Education Conference involving the International Co-operative Alliance, the Association of Cooperative Educators, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, and the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, Montreal, 24–26 June 2012; Lou, Maria, and Michael will attend and present; Heather and Audra are also attending
  - ▲ “Mainstreaming Co-operation: An Alternative for the 21st Century?” Manchester and Rochdale, UK, 3–5 July 2012; Michael will attend and present
  - ▲ Annual Meetings of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 26–29 July 2012; Michael will attend and present
- ▲ Seminars
- ▲ “Forestry Co-operatives: A Community-Based Approach to an Emerging Bio-Economy,” Hayley Hesseln, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, U of S, 26 April 2012
- ▲ Publications
- ▲ *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*, co-published with Harold Chapman; published in May

- ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, edited by Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa; Centre book; published in June
  - ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” accepted for publication by UBC Press, is in the revise-and-resubmit mode; Nora has addressed reviewers’ recommendations with individual authors and is awaiting their responses
  - ▲ with Greg Marchildon, School of Public Policy (Regina), Catherine is working on a revised and expanded edition of Stan Rands’s *Privilege and Policy: A History of the Community Clinics in Saskatchewan*, forthcoming
  - ▲ seventeen Social Economy reports await Nora’s attention
- ▲ Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News
- ▲ PhD candidate Monica Juarez Adeler concluded all her teaching duties just in time to give birth to Adrian Soren on 17 May; congratulations Monica and Brendan!
  - ▲ School of Public Policy student Marion Hewitt Pollock has joined us as a research assistant to work with Audra on the car-share co-op initiative
  - ▲ Mitch Diamantopoulos, who graduated with a PhD in the Co-op Concentration last fall, is the recipient of the 2011–2012 Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research Dissertation Award
  - ▲ Centre MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar is in Mongolia for the summer conducting field research for her thesis
- ▲ Scholars Update 2011–2012
- ▲ Len Findlay was awarded an earned D.Litt. at spring convocation 2011 in recognition of his scholarly contributions to English studies; he also received the Academic Freedom Award from the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association; Len is on committees for two Centre PhD students in the Co-op Concentration
  - ▲ Louise Clarke retired from her position in the Edwards School of Business and as university co-director of the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR); she remains a committee member for several Centre graduate students
  - ▲ Isobel Findlay was appointed university co-director of CUISR and is also on the executive of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC); she teaches two classes with co-op content, is on committees for a number of Co-op Concentration students, has attended and presented at several co-op–related conferences, and is the principal investigator on many social economy projects
  - ▲ Dan Ish serves on a committee for one Centre graduate student
  - ▲ Jorge Sousa is a member of an advisory committee on converting public housing to co-operative housing in Winnipeg; is a member of CASC and makes at least one presentation at the annual conference; made two presentations with co-op content at other conferences; has a book forthcoming on the Atkinson Housing Co-operative; is the editor of the Centre’s most recent book, *A Co-*

*operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, for which he wrote one chapter and co-wrote two others; wrote one encyclopaedia entry on co-op housing; and has two additional chapters on co-op housing forthcoming in other books

- ▲ Ian MacPherson has made thirteen presentations on co-operative topics at conferences around the world; he has also produced eight book chapters with co-op content

#### ▲ Partners and Developments

Mary Beckett, Herb Carlson, Ken Sherwin, and Karl Baumgardner will present verbal reports on the relevant activities of their organizations.

## Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, Administration, and Outreach

### Lou Hammond Ketilson

#### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is supervising MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar (InterD Co-op Concentration) and is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler (InterD PhD, Co-op Concentration) and Douglas Akhimienmhonan (PhD, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics), as well as Zahra Rahmani Nooshabadi (MA, School of Public Policy). Lou is also committee chair for Rob Dobrohoczki, Maria Basualdo, Annette Johnson, Mike Chartier, and Patricia Elliot, all Centre PhD students in the Co-op Concentration.

Douglas Akhimienmhonan successfully defended his thesis in April, and Tsegi Chuluunbaatar is in Mongolia for the summer conducting field research.

#### ▲ Research

- ▲ New research: Perception of Co-ops Survey — Lou and Michael are working with the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the College of Arts and Science to conduct a province-wide telephone survey of the public's knowledge and attitudes towards Saskatchewan co-operatives and co-operative development. The survey will be administered in August and results will be shared at the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference in November.
- ▲ co-applicant on the Canadian Co-operative Association's five-year Community University Research Alliance grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental,

and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada; academic lead for the Prairie Cluster; see more details in Highlights section of this report

- ▲ phase one of Lou's project in partnership with Affinity Credit Union, "Providing Financial Services to Saskatchewan's Immigrant Community," is complete and submitted
- ▲ received \$24,000 from the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat to develop a bilingual version of the Building Community exhibit, accompanied by workshops, and a tool-kit supporting community development through the mechanism of the exhibit and workshops combined; project complete

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ "Building Resilient Rural Communities: The Social and Economic Investment Made by Canadian Co-operatives," presented to the 2nd National Rural Research Workshop hosted by the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Ottawa, 24 May 2012
- ▲ "Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Their Communities: Lessons from Preliminary Research," will be presented to Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives, the Joint Co-operative Research and Education Conference, Montreal, 24–26 June 2012

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ "Foreword" to *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement* by Harold Chapman; published by Harold Chapman and the Centre in May 2012
- ▲ with Cornelius Christian, Maxim Gertler-Jaffe, and Michael Gertler, "Providing Financial Services to Saskatchewan's Immigrant Community," study commissioned by Affinity Credit Union; published
- ▲ "First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise," in "Community Survival: Co-operative Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," UBC Press, accepted
- ▲ "Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada," Centre occasional paper, accepted
- ▲ "A Critical Assessment and Integration of Scholarly Views Regarding Old and New Roles for Co-operatives," proceedings from Promoting the Understanding of Co-operatives for a Better World conference in Venice in March 2012; accepted
- ▲ "Understanding Co-operatives through Research," Centre booklet, accepted
- ▲ "Partnering to Finance Enterprise Development within the Aboriginal Social Economy," submitted to special edition of journal *Canadian Public Policy: Strengthening Communities through Government and Social Economy Partnerships*, edited by Jorge Sousa and Mike Toye, under review
- ▲ with Nora, Maria, and student intern Carolyn Camman, *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit*; in progress
- ▲ preface to *Essays on the Economics of Co-operative Organizations*, 2nd ed., by Sigismundo Bialoskorksi Neto, Department of Economics. School of Business

- and Economics. University of São Paulo, Brazil; in progress
- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Pat Thomas, “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Communities,” in progress
  - ▲ editing the 2012 *Review of International Co-operation* published by the International Co-operative Alliance, based on papers from the ICA research conference in Mikkeli, Finland; in progress
  - ▲ with Gayle Broad, “Challenges in Mapping the Social Economy in Indigenous Communities in Canada,” for special edition of Ciriec Canada journal *Économie et Solidarités* titled What Is the Future for the Co-operative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities? in progress
  - ▲ “Wealth Creation, Community Development, and Poverty Reduction” in *Co-operative Enterprise for Dummies: Why Co-operatives Are Important*, ed. Terry MacDonald, Global Co-operative Development Group, in progress
  - ▲ with Thibault Martin, co-editing a special edition of the Ciriec Canada journal, *Économie et Solidarités* titled What Is the Future for the Co-operative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities? in progress
- ▲ Outreach and Engagement
- ▲ in planning stages with Swift Current about mounting the Building Community exhibit; date confirmed for November 2012
  - ▲ the full exhibit will go to Montreal at the end of June for the 2012 joint congress of the Canadian Co-operative Association and le Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité
  - ▲ working with The Co-operators to take the full exhibit to Guelph; date not yet confirmed
- ▲ Administration and Meetings
- ▲ as commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S’s *Second Integrated Plan 2008–12*, working on completion of the Working Group’s final report; will be submitted to the VP Research and VP Academic in June, then for circulation to all faculty
  - ▲ Setting a National Co-operative Research Agenda committee; the initial project is complete but Audra and Heather are participating in the continuing form of this committee, the Canadian Co-operative Research Network; the Centre’s role is still to be worked out
  - ▲ as a member of the management board for Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network, conference calls in April and June; in-person meeting 24 June in Montreal; Jessica Gordon Nembhart, Linda Moulin from Affinity Credit Union, and Lou will attend
  - ▲ as member of National International Year of Co-operatives 2012 Committee; the committee has become the official Government of Canada committee as required by the United Nations
  - ▲ member of Steering Committee for Impact! The Co-operators Youth and Sustainability Programme

- ▲ as chair of the International Co-operative Alliance’s Committee on Co-operative Research
  - ▶ conference call with chair of Governance Committee of the ICA board of directors and director general to discuss the Committee on Co-operative Research strategic plan, 5 June 2012
  - ▶ member of steering committee for international research conference titled Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives in Montreal, 24–26 June 2012; event is a joint meeting of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, the Association of Co-operative Educators, the Interdisciplinary Research and Information Centre on Collective Enterprises, the Measuring the Co-operative Difference Network, and the Territorial Development and Co-operation network (the latter two are Community-University Research Alliances)

## Michael Gertler

### ▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community (this class concluded in April)  
INTD 898.3: Co-operatives and International Development (ongoing)

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the Co-operative Studies Concentration and one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees for one InterD MA student and four InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, and a committee member for one PhD student in Sociology.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ with Lou Hammond Ketilson and the Social Sciences Research Laboratories, College of Arts and Science, “2012 Survey of Public Perceptions of Co-operatives in Saskatchewan”
- ▲ with Erin Hancock (CCA) and Debbie Dergousoff (Simon Fraser University), “A Study of Innovative Co-operative Projects 2009–2011”
- ▲ principal investigator, “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities”
- ▲ principal investigator, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ with Lou Hammond Ketilson, Maxim Gertler-Jaffe, and Cornelius Christian, “Providing Financial Services to Saskatchewan’s Immigrant Community,” report commissioned by Affinity Credit Union; published

▲ Presentations (upcoming)

- ▲ “Co-operative Advantages: Making the (Business) Case for Co-ops,” at Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives conference, Montreal, 24–27 June 2012
- ▲ “Knowledge Politics and the Co-operative Difference,” at Mainstreaming Co-operation: An Alternative for the 21st Century? Manchester and Rochdale, UK, 3–5 July
- ▲ “Co-operative Innovation and Sustainable Rural Knowledge Economies,” at the annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 26–29 July

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ external reviewer, proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Co-operative and Credit Union Management, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, May 2012
- ▲ manuscript review for the *Canadian Journal of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research / Revue canadienne de recherche sur les OSBL et l’économie sociale*
- ▲ graduate chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration in Co-operatives Studies, the Centre, 1 January 2012
- ▲ University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Representative for the Department of Sociology, January 2012–
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, 2010–2012
- ▲ resource person/advisor, Co-operative Issues Council, Enterprise Saskatchewan
- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
- ▲ member, Canada-USA Relations Working Group, Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts Science
- ▲ member, Department of Sociology Library Committee
- ▲ member, Canadian Co-operative Association Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- ▲ member, Research Needs: Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, and Rural Civil Society discussion group, US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Co-operatives*, 2009–
- ▲ representing the Centre on IYC 2012 Saskatchewan Planning Committee.
- ▲ chair of the conference co-ordinating committee and the program committee, Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, 1–3 November 2012, Saskatoon

## Brett Fairbairn

Most of Brett's time is devoted to his administrative responsibilities as University Provost and VP Academic, though he remains connected to the Centre and co-operative studies in a variety of roles.

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Brett continues to supervise one PhD student: Mark McCulloch (History) "Women's Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949-71." He also serves on a number of other PhD and MA student advisory committees.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ co-investigator, "Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society," SSHRC funded

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ "A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches," in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa, Centre book, published June 2012
- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," Brett is the editor as well as author or co-author of 4 chapters in this book accepted for publication by UBC Press

## Murray Fulton

### ▲ Teaching

JSGS 892.3: Political Economy  
BPBE 842.3: Industrial Organization of Agricultural Markets (both these classes concluded in April 2012)

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising four PhD students, three of whom are working on co-op topics; he is also supervising three master's students, one of whom is working on a co-op topic.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ with Michael Atkinson, executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing

▲ Publications

- ▲ *Challenges Facing the Grain Handling and Transportation System in Western Canada in a Post Canadian Wheat Board Environment* (working paper), Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, November 2011

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Comments on Bill C-18,” presentation to the Senate Hearings on Bill C-18, Ottawa, 8 December 2011 (not reported previously)
- ▲ “How Would a Voluntary CWB Operate?” at conference titled Operating Successfully in a New Marketing Environment: Issues Facing Farmers, Agribusiness and Government, Saskatoon, 11-13 December 2011 (not reported previously)
- ▲ with Monika Cule, “Operating in a Post Single-Desk Environment: Port Access and Competition in Grain Handling on the Canadian Prairies,” Department of Bioresource Policy Business and Economics Seminar, University of Saskatchewan, 3 February 2012; also presented at the Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting, Calgary, 8 June 2012
- ▲ with Konstantinos Giannakas, “Financing Co-operative Organizations: The Horizon Problem Revisited,” at Co-operative Values in Internationalized Operations conference, Helsinki, Finland, 14-16 June 2012
- ▲ with Konstantinos Giannakas, “The Economic Impact of Corruption in Co-operatives,” at same conference
- ▲ with Konstantinos Giannakas, “Horizon and Free-Rider Problems in Co-operative Organizations,” at 9th INRA\_IDEI Conference on Industrial Organization and the Food Processing Industry, Toulouse, France, 21-22 June 2012

▲ Administration

- ▲ graduate chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- ▲ member of the College of Graduate Studies and Research executive committee

Nora Russell

▲ Writing, Editing, Design, Print Supervision

- ▲ *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*, by Harold Chapman, published by Harold and the Centre in May 2012; Nora edited and proofed the front matter, checked final proofs of entire book, and provided considerable direction in the production of this book
- ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Jorge Sousa and Roger Herman, Centre book, published June 2012; Nora did final proofing and reformatting, prepared files for printer, and supervised printing process
- ▲ researched, wrote, designed, and supervised printing of the annual report

- ▲ designed and oversaw production of a new 3 x 8 foot banner for the Building Community Exhibit
- ▲ did final editing and layout for Lou’s report to Affinity Credit Union examining the provision of financial services to immigrant communities
- ▲ did preliminary editing and layout for Lou’s presentation titled “Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada,” to the Big Thinking series on Parliament Hill; this will be a Centre Occasional Paper
- ▲ did editorial work on proposal for the Saskatoon car-sharing co-op
- ▲ with Lou, Maria, and intern Carolyn Camman, working on production of *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit*
- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” Centre book accepted for publication by UBC Press; in the revise-and-resubmit phase
- ▲ *Rural Youth Research Internship*, LLL final report; with authors for revisions
- ▲ *Labour Market Study: A Community-Based Research Report for Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, Naadmaadwuiik, and Saulteaux Enterprises, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Local Delivery Mechanisms*, LLL final report; with authors for revisions
- ▲ designed and did layout of French version of all one hundred panels of the original exhibit to accompany the English version at national events as well as for posting to the Centre’s website and making available on DVD
- ▲ co-ordinated, wrote, and did layout for this director’s report

#### ▲ Other Activities

- ▲ prepared seminar announcements
- ▲ designed IYC email signature
- ▲ prepared annual Bromberger Bursary application
- ▲ designed and produced a handbill advertising the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference for Lou to distribute at SaskCentral’s AGM

#### ▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Like other Centre staff, Nora attends all Centre seminars and Co-op Week Luncheons. And she is a member of the committee investigating the possibility of forming a coffee co-operative in the Diefenbaker Building. As a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors’ Association of Canada, she designed the posters and other promotional material for their spring workshops. Nora is a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the Centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province, and she is the Centre’s representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, a group that organizes lunch-time speakers on co-op topics throughout the year.

## Heather Acton

### ▲ The Library

Materials signed out: 11  
 Materials returned: 15  
 Reference and research requests responded to: 31  
 Books catalogued: 17  
 New Borrowers Registered: 1  
 Online Catalogue Accesses: 91

### ▲ Events and Meetings

- ▲ March 21 — Co-op Network Luncheon
- ▲ March 22 — Centre Seminar
- ▲ April 23 — Teleconference of the Canadian Co-operative Research Network
- ▲ April 26 — Centre Seminar
- ▲ April 26 — Edna Warrington's Retirement Event (University Library)
- ▲ May 16 — Presentation by Ken Coates
- ▲ May 28 — Teleconference of the Canadian Co-operative Research Network

### ▲ Other Matters

With the final report for the Social Economy project out of the way, Heather has been able to dedicate time to a variety of tasks that have been on the back burner for some time. She has ordered several new books for the collection, packaged up and sent several loose journals for binding, and got started on the large backlog of library cataloguing.

Most of her time has been absorbed by enhancements to and maintenance of the Centre websites. A new subject guide to Centre publications is now available on the website, making it easier to find publications relevant to individual interests. Visitors are invited to subscribe to “news and announcements updates” on both the Centre website and the blog. They can either click on the “email” link at the upper right of both screens or send Heather an email and she will do it manually.

Heather has remounted the display of the Centre’s co-op artifacts in the new cabinet in the hallway; they were in storage for more than a year during the building renovations. A second cabinet displays our most recent student theses.

Heather and Audra have joined the steering committee of the Canadian Co-operative Research Network.

Helma and Arthur Dahlman have recently donated two large boxes of slides of co-ops from across British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Arthur, now in his nineties, used to work for Federated Co-operatives. If the quality is good enough, we will digitize the images and make the collection available on our website. This

will be a pilot project; if it goes well, we will then digitize many of the photographs currently stored in cabinets in the library.

Below are general website statistics for the four-month period 1 March to 31 May 2012 :

- ▲ Centre website: 4,521 visits from 107 countries
- ▲ LLL Social Economy Website: 1,404 visits from 85 countries
- ▲ Building Community Exhibit Website: 674 visits from 53 countries

## Audra Krueger

### ▲ International Year of Co-operatives Activities

Audra has worked intensely over the last few months to advance the organization of the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference in November. All of the keynote and plenary speakers are confirmed — including John Ralston Saul as the keynote on 1 November — and the majority of the breakout-session speakers have been invited. Confirmed sponsorship of the conference is currently at \$63,000, with a projected additional \$20,000 to come. This places the committee in a good position financially, assuming that upward of three hundred people register. We will also be applying for a SSHRC grant. The conference website and registration page have been launched. Please visit [www.buildabetterwest.com](http://www.buildabetterwest.com) to learn more about the event and to register.

Audra continued to organize the special seminar series celebrating the International Year of Co-operatives. In the April session, Hayley Hesseln provided co-op supporters with an inspiring exploration of the potential of forestry co-operatives. The seminar was held in the Agriculture Building and was well attended by those interested in co-operatives and the future of forestry in Saskatchewan.

Audra's position as a member of the Saskatoon CarShare Steering Committee prompted the Centre to hire graduate student Marion Hewitt Pollock in April to undertake research into the best practices in car sharing in Canada. Marion's research has been used to inform the work of the committee, and impressive progress has been made, most notably the completion of co-operative bylaws and the submission of papers of incorporation. The next stage will include the dissemination of a survey to determine what neighbourhoods in Saskatoon would be likely to ensure the financial success of a car-share co-op. This process has been invaluable in terms of the experiential learning involved in creating a co-op and also in building partnerships.

## Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the Centre's day-to-day operations and all financial matters including monitoring the main operating fund, maintaining

the monthly financial statements and all research accounts, dealing with incorrect entries and missing documentation, and processing all transactions on the university credit card.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating contributions, issuing invoices, processing journal vouchers, and depositing sponsor dues for the fourth quarter
- ▲ a large amount of time reviewing and finalizing all the expenditures in the Social Economy project fund, including itemizing outstanding expenses and ensuring all invoices were submitted by the deadline, then preparing final reporting forms for SSHRC
- ▲ working with Financial Reporting to gather the annual expenses associated with the Measuring the Impact of Co-ops project the Centre has with CCA
- ▲ working with the Office of Research Services to finalize the contract with Algoma University to transfer funds associated with the Northern Ontario version of the Building Community Exhibit
- ▲ co-ordinating the submission of hours and payroll information for three student researchers
- ▲ preparing detailed financial information outlining the Centre's projected expenditures to year-end (30 June); estimating outstanding expenditures; preparing chart showing actual and projected expenses and balance available
- ▲ attending an information meeting with Lou about the Transparent, Activity-Based Budgeting System (TABBS model), a new financial model being implemented on campus
- ▲ assisting Audra with preparing and sending out invoices for sponsorship agreements with FCL and Conexus Credit Union in support of the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference
- ▲ assisting Lou with the paperwork for the ASPA merit process and submitting it to Human Resources by the deadline

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ editing the minutes of the last board meeting
- ▲ assisting Audra in hiring Marion Hewitt Pollock, ensuring that the payroll-related forms were submitted on-line prior to the deadline
- ▲ making arrangements for Lou and Keith Carlson to travel to Regina for a meeting with Dean of Arts Richard Kleer to discuss interdisciplinary unions and possible collaboration between the two universities
- ▲ co-ordinating paperwork and details for the new display cabinets in the Centre hallway; ensuring the construction specifications were accurate; finalizing arrangements and processing payment

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other agenda materials, arranging for printing, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

## Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties as clerical assistant include the traditional activities of that position as well as extra activities as required.

Special activities this quarter included:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the April advisory board meeting; sending out April Director's Report to the Centre list
- ▲ checking in and routing journals; assisting with circulation and research questions for library patrons; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ checking library shelves to ensure books were reshelved properly after the move; there were many, many items out of place
- ▲ mailing out completed Social Economy reports and Centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit; processing payments through daily cash reports and depositing payments
- ▲ preparing cheque requisitions for a variety of Centre invoices
- ▲ processing journal vouchers for xerox billing to other departments
- ▲ processing orders for IYC promotional items and also materials for the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference
- ▲ posting articles to the Centre blog; routing articles from email to faculty, staff, students, and scholars
- ▲ co-ordinating the binding of several theses
- ▲ assisting Patty with the preparation and mailout of the Management Advisory Board packages
- ▲ making travel, accommodation, meeting, and conference registration arrangements for Centre faculty, staff, students, scholars, and other Centre associates; processing claims upon return:
  - for Lou to attend the National Rural Research Workshop in Ottawa in May
  - for Lou, Michael, Maria, Audra, Heather, and Jessica Gordon Nembhard to attend the CASC and CCA conferences in Montreal in June
  - for Harold Chapman and Joan Bell to attend the CASC conference in Montreal in June
  - for Michael to attend the Mainstreaming Co-operation conference in Manchester in July
  - for Michael to attend the annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society in Chicago in July
  - for Lou to attend the International Year of Co-operatives International Symposium in Tokyo in November

## The Students

**Maria Basualdo** works half time as the Centre's exhibit co-ordinator and is responsible for most of the work reported in the Highlights section of this report on the Building Community Exhibit. She has worked with partners in Northern

Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan to prepare the travelling components for the individual regions, with the printer in Saskatoon co-ordinating the production of the panels, with shippers to send the panels to their respective regions, and with organizers in the three provinces helping to plan events. She and Lou have had meetings with prospective hosts in Saskatchewan and with groups intending to host the original version of the exhibit nationally.

Maria has produced an introductory video on the exhibit, both for prospective hosts and for anyone wanting to learn more about it. It will be available on the website.

The Manitoba version of the exhibit, available in both English and French, was launched at the Provincial Legislature in Winnipeg in January. To date, it is scheduled to visit fourteen co-ops and other organizations and events during 2012.

The Northern Ontario version, also available in both English and French, was launched at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library in March. Several communities have expressed an interest in it and are currently seeking funding for travel expenses.

The Saskatchewan version, which focusses on co-operatives rather than social economy organizations in general, has been prepared and is awaiting its launch in the province. Communities here seem more interested in the full exhibit.

Maria is also one of the Centre's PhD students; she has completed her course work and is studying for her comprehensives. She has two publications in process:

- ▲ with Isobel Findlay and Clifford Ray, "The Ethics of Engagement: Learning with Aboriginal Co-operatives in Saskatchewan," in a forthcoming book on community-based research by the Community-University Institute for Social Research and the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, ed. Bonnie Jeffery, Isobel Findlay, Diane Martz, and Louise Clarke
- ▲ with Nicola Chopin and David McDine, "Community-Based Research Partnerships: Students, Community, and Faculty Coproducing Knowledge by Building Trust and Developing Lasting Relationships," in the same book

**Monica Juarez Adeler** is working on revisions to her PhD dissertation. During term, she also teaches full time in the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Winnipeg, where she is developing co-op courses and a summer internship program to place students in local co-ops. She is also working on a proposal to the co-op sector in Manitoba to obtain funding for a co-op chair at the Business School.

Monica is an active member of two Co-op Vision Strategy working groups in Manitoba and serves as a board member for the Association of Cooperative Educators and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation. Her role in the latter includes organizing the annual conference in Montreal in June 2012.

Most important, Monica just had a baby! Adrian Soren was born on 17 May, and as Monica said in an email, “We are going to make sure that he becomes another big co-operator, a new addition to join the movement!”

**Rob Dobrohoczki** is working on his dissertation and concluded teaching a course in the School of Public Policy in April. Rob has one publication forthcoming: with Brett Fairbairn, “I felt that I had lost myself”: Credit Unions, Economies, and the Construction of Locality” in Centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” accepted for publication by UBC Press. Rob serves on the board of the Good Food Junction and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

**Mike Chartier** has completed the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensives. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” Mike teaches full time in the Saskatoon Public School system and continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

**Patricia Elliott** is working on her dissertation, titled “Independent Voices: Third-Sector Media Development and Local Governance.” It will look at how third-sector media contributes to citizen participation and social change, and will examine how the co-operative sector and other social movement organizations can best support its development and sustainability. In addition to working on her PhD, Patricia is director of the Community Research Unit at the University of Regina and also teaches in the School of Journalism.

**Annette Johnson** has finished the coursework for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration and is studying for her comprehensive exams. Her dissertation is titled “Finding a Way Out: An Investigation into the Amalgamation of Worker Co-ops and Canadian Unions.” Annette is the lead sociology instructor at the Regina SIAST campus and teaches an introductory course as well as Aboriginal awareness. She also teaches a course at the University of Regina titled Social Structure and Personality.

**Tsegi Chuluunbaatar** has finished the course work for her MA. She completed her research proposal and obtained ethics approval and is currently in Mongolia conducting field research — case studies on selected rural Mongolian co-ops. She plans to finish her thesis by next summer.